



March 21, 2011

Dear Patient:

You are receiving this letter because you were identified as a patient who received one or more of the following procedures between December 20, 2010 and March 11, 2011 at Dr. Michael Kaplan's office located at 4 Sunset Way, Henderson, NV:

- Prostate biopsy
- Visicoil™ implantable markers
- Gold seed radiation implants

A recent investigation by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigation found Dr. Kaplan re-used endocavity needle guides, which are single-use-only medical devices, while performing the procedures listed above. The investigation found that Dr. Kaplan's staff attempted to clean and disinfect the needle guides prior to reusing them, but these needle guides were not designed or intended to be reused.

Dr. Kaplan's medical license was suspended indefinitely by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on Tuesday, March 14 and he is unable to practice medicine. The doctor's office is currently open for patients to gather their medical records.

The re-use of the endocavity needle guides could expose patients to the blood of previous patients. The health district has been consulting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our state public health partners to determine the best public health response to the investigation findings.

As of March 21, we have not identified any cases of disease related to the procedures at Dr. Kaplan's office, and based on similar incidents that have occurred in other states, the risk of contracting a disease is believed to be very low. However, as a precaution, we are recommending that patients who underwent any of the procedures listed above during this time frame be tested for the hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV viruses. Due to the time it can take for infection to be detected, it is important to be tested soon and then again six months after the date of your procedure(s). Please contact your personal physician to review your medical history and he or she can arrange for appropriate testing. When visiting your doctor, please share this letter with him or her as there is information at the end of this letter regarding testing.

At this time, we are not aware of any other procedures conducted by Dr. Kaplan that might have put patients at risk and testing is only recommended for patients who had any of these procedures during the time period listed above.

We understand that this information might be upsetting and you may have additional questions. The health district's helpline will be available, (702) 759-4636, beginning March 22. Additional information about hepatitis and medical resources can be found on the health district's website, www.SNHD.info. If you have questions regarding the investigation you can contact the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (888) 890-8210.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH
Chief Health Officer

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To health care providers: The patient to whom this letter was addressed has possibly been exposed to bloodborne pathogens during a medical procedure. The Southern Nevada Health District is recommending that this patient be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. To simplify testing, the health district has arranged for the appropriate tests to be available as a panel from major commercial laboratories. To access the information on testing, please see the technical bulletin entitled "Investigation into Infection Control Breach at Physician's Office, Henderson, NV" in the Health Care Professionals section of the health district website, <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/health-care-providers/tech-bulletin.php> . It is also available by fax on demand by dialing (702) 759-1499 and requesting document 90803.